

**Staff Jurisdiction Analysis Summary  
City of Downey, Los Angeles County  
2012-13 CalRecycle Jurisdiction Review Cycle**

On May 15, 2012, CalRecycle determined that the City of Downey (City) had successfully completed all the requirements of Compliance Order IWMA BR07-03 whereby program improvements were implemented in the areas of Commercial, C&D and reporting. Based upon review of diversion program implementation during this review cycle, LAMD staff recommends that the Downey (City) is meeting the requirements of AB939. The City continues to implement programs specified through its most recent compliance order and is looking towards additional program enhancements through the initiation of the franchise agreement RFP process, which will include further targeted outreach, applied metrics, and improved monitoring across all program areas. The City's disposal rate has been trending downward except in 2012 when disposal increased to 93,000 tons due to a large scale demolition project (former Downey Studios, NASA site), followed by new construction. There was significant diversion from the project, but a portion also needed to be disposed. Disposal dropped down to approximately 84,500 tons in 2013 after project completion. Diversion and recycled content procurement programs have been observed to be effective as summarized below:

- **Residential:** The City has worked with its hauler to develop a comprehensive residential recycling program. Recycling is in place for all single family residences and multi-family complexes up to 4 units. Although recycling is not fully implemented for all complexes of 5 or more units, the City and hauler have worked to set up recycling at 93% (500 total) of the complexes in the City. A recent change in the end use for green material collected at the curb resulted in a targeted outreach campaign to reduce contamination. The City and its hauler indicated that the combined efforts of print and direct outreach have reduced green waste contamination significantly. The City provides adequate education and outreach regarding all residential programs using a variety of media. Educational materials are provided to residents on a consistent basis. Although the variable rate for trash service is small, it's possible that the pricing structure that is in place is adequate and coupled with the outreach provided ensures that the residential recycling program has shown effectiveness in reducing disposal to date. Additional methods to increase recycling/reduce disposal in the residential sector, as well as monitor hauler performance, will result through the implementation of a new agreement. LAMD staff will be providing assistance to the City as it implements new and enhanced residential recycling programs by providing input regarding outreach to affected sectors, and providing input on ways to monitor newly implemented programs for effectiveness.
- **Commercial:** This program combines various types of collection: source separated, wet/dry routing by the hauler to identify "dry" commercial accounts to pick up for mixed waste processing, a percentage of "wet" accounts (10%) that are also mixed waste processed, as well as larger businesses that back-haul or self-haul recyclables. It does not appear that there is comprehensive outreach that fully outlines all of these program options. Through the 2014 site visits with the City and hauler, the details about the program options available was more fully understood. The hauler has made numerous programmatic changes such as the implementation of wet/dry routing. The City plans to go out to bid for a new hauling contract, and is using a

reputable consultant to identify the suite of program options that will assist in providing enhanced services to the commercial sector, ensure that the hauler is providing effective outreach, include the use of performance incentives, and will set up effective monitoring of the commercial program. LAMD staff will be providing assistance to the City as it implements new and enhanced commercial recycling programs by providing input regarding outreach to affected sectors, and providing input on ways to monitor newly implemented programs for effectiveness.

- **MCR:** Both the City and hauler have implemented many of the education and outreach activities as planned, such as updating websites and providing outreach through mailing and direct outreach methods. Due to turnover with both the City and the assigned hauler representative, there was a gap in some of the direct outreach that took place in 2012. The City and hauler did correct this and began monitoring in 2013. In 2013, there were 503 businesses subject to mandatory commercial recycling requirements in 2013, and, of that amount, 82 businesses were not recycling. There were 540 multi-family complexes subject to MCR requirements, and 40 not recycling. Since there is not data available for 2012 as to how many accounts were covered and the number not recycling, LAMD staff cannot compare 2013 to 2012 to determine if there was an increase in number of accounts recycling. It is known that the hauler has been focusing on implementing wet/dry routing in recent years, so there has been an increased number of commercial accounts overall that have mixed waste processed. Through 2014 conversations with City staff, the importance of providing education and outreach about MCR to the commercial sector and covered multi-family complexes has been reinforced, and there has been a commitment to work with the hauler to ensure there is a focus on increasing commercial accounts that have recycling as well as monitoring implementation efforts.
- **Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris:** This program's ordinance has been fully implemented and information is available on the City's website as well as directly communicated to project applicants by counter staff. LAMD staff has verified how information is conveyed to project applicants. Staff also reviewed a few samples of C&D completed Waste Management Plans, including weight tickets to show how the projects complied with the recycling requirement. There are several opportunities for the City to continue to develop regarding C&D materials management, including how to develop plans and track projects, not covered by the City's ordinance, but subject to CalGreen requirements. The City will convey information about local C&D diversion opportunities to project applicants that self-haul. LAMD staff will continue to provide technical assistance to ensure C&D waste is being diverted from projects subject to CalGreen requirements, as well as provide resources to assist the City in improving its C&D tracking system.
- **Government:** The City has implemented some strong internal diversion practices. Employees each have a blue desk side recycling bin with small trash containers attached. The City manages greenwaste through xeriscaping, grasscycling and recycling tree trimmings. All material is chipped and mulched on site. The City is practicing a variety of source reduction activities, including reusing and auctioning off used equipment and reusing office supplies. There are opportunities to further increase overall diversion by improving source reduction activities, such as making double sided copying the default setting for all computers. The City has a procurement policy which contains provisions to ensure the policy is fully implemented, as well as the ability

to consider other environmental benefits such as greenhouse gas emission reduction in relation to purchasing materials. Purchases are not limited to choosing “low bid” items. LAMD staff was able to verify many recycled content purchases for both office supplies and big ticket items. Through the 2014 conference calls and visits, LAMD staff was able to assist the jurisdiction contact in identifying opportunities to provide more education and outreach to City staff than is currently being provided. The City’s primary contact understands the value and is committed to working on some of these elements. LAMD staff has provided resources and will continue to assist in implementing these measures.